implementing the scheme w.e.f. 1.5.1997. All other States except Meghalaya, Punjab and Delhi are likely to start the scheme from 1st June, 1997.

The details of the TPDS have been given in the guidelines already laid on the Table of the House and duly issued to the States/UTs.

Out of Course Questions in CBSE Papers

*499. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of questions of various subjects were out of course in the question papers of 10th and 12th class examinations of CBSE, Delhi, held in February-March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the questions, subject-wise and class-wise, which were not prescribed in the NCERT books;

(c) the reasons for prescribing questions from out of syllabus for these examinations;

(d) the persons responsible for this lapse; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to prescribe questions only from the NCERT text books?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (e) Questions are set in Class X and XII examinations conducted by CBSE based on the syllabus drawn up by CBSE for these Classes. According to the CBSE none of the questions is outside the scope of syllabus. A few representations have been received regarding the level of difficulty of questions in the recently conducted examination. These are being considered in consultation with the experts.

Short-Term Crop Loan to the Farmers of North-Eastern States

*500. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of non-advancing of short-term crop loans to the farmers especially in the North-East States after the loan-waiving scheme of the then Janata Party Government;

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by Government for refinancing the farmers of backward State for increasing the crop production; and

(c) by when it is likely to be given to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Advancement of Crop Loans has not been stopped in the North-Eastern States after the implementation of ARDR Scheme. NABARD has continued to provide credit limits to Banks in North East Region.

(c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Relaxation of Guidelines for Financial Assistance to the States Affected by Natural Calamities

3649. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to relax the guidelines to provide financial assistance to the States affected by natural calamities, like cyclone, drought, flood, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?